

Some Esters of Unsaturated Acids

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In connection with a study of the preparation of co-polymers of acrylic esters, various esters of unsaturated acids (listed in Table I) were required. Though several of these esters are available commercially, their physical properties are either not found in the permanent chemical literature or these are insufficiently reported. *n*-Butyl maleate^{2,3} and fumarate^{2,3} and 2-chloroethyl maleate⁴ and

Experimental

Samples of 2-chloroethyl crotonate, butyl maleate, 2-ethylhexyl maleate, butyl itaconate, butyl aconitate and 2-ethylhexyl aconitate were available commercially; these were redistilled and the constants determined.

The other esters of Table I were prepared by the usual esterification procedure, glass equipment with ground glass joints being employed.⁸ A mixture of acid or anhydride, an excess of the alcohol, sulfuric acid catalyst and entraining agent was refluxed, and water was continuously removed in a separating trap. Benzene or toluene was used as the entraining agent except in the preparation of the butyl esters, in which the excess of butyl alcohol served as the entraining agent. After esterification was complete, the catalyst was neutralized with sodium acetate, and the ester isolated by

TABLE I

PROPERTIES OF SOME ESTERS OF UNSATURATED ACIDS

Ester	Yield, %	°C.	B.p., mm.	<i>n</i> _D ²⁰	<i>d</i> ₄ ²⁰	Carbon, %		Hydrogen, %		Chlorine, %		Sapn. equiv.	
						Found	Calcd.	Found	Calcd.	Found	Calcd.	Found	Calcd.
2-Chloroethyl crotonate ^a		58-60	3.5	1.4599	1.1185								
<i>n</i> -Butyl maleate ^a		124-125	3.4	1.4451	0.9964					23.72	23.86		
<i>n</i> -Hexyl maleate	97	127	0.7	1.4499	.9583	68.20	67.57	10.48	9.92			142.1	142.2
2-Ethylhexyl maleate ^a		156	0.7	1.4548	.9437								
2-(2-Chloroethoxy)-ethyl maleate	86	197	1.0	1.4858	1.2738					21.70	21.54		
<i>n</i> -Butyl fumarate	80	117	2.5	1.4429	0.9775	63.12	63.13	8.77	8.77			113.9	114.1
2-Ethylhexyl fumarate	87	160	0.5	1.4570	0.9398	70.53	70.55	10.58	10.66			171.4	170.2
2-(2-Chloroethoxy)-ethyl fumarate	83	182	0.3	1.4863	1.2673					21.83	21.54		
<i>n</i> -Butyl chloromaleate	83	112	1.2	1.4558	1.0756	54.86	55.10	7.29	7.23	13.50	13.31		
2-Chloroethyl chloromaleate	75	138	1.2	1.4983	1.4047					38.44	38.60		
<i>n</i> -Butyl itaconate ^a		82	0.2	1.4450	0.9839								
<i>n</i> -Butyl aconitate ^a		155	.5	1.4553	1.0184								
2-Ethylhexyl aconitate ^a		170 ^b	.07 ^b	1.4620	0.9589								

^a The commercially available esters were redistilled. ^b Distilled in an alembic-type still.

fumarate⁵ have been most completely reported; for butyl fumarate, however, the previously reported constants and those of this paper are not in good agreement. The patent literature reports only the boiling point of 2-ethylhexyl maleate,³ and the refractive index for *n*-butyl aconitate⁶ and 2-ethylhexyl aconitate.⁷ This paper reports the preparation, boiling point, refractive index and density of various esters of several unsaturated acids.

vacuum distillation. A 35-mm. by 50-cm. Vigreux or an alembic-type still,⁹ mounted to permit agitation of the still pot contents, was used in the distillation. Center fractions were collected for determination of the various constants. Results are shown in Table I.

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